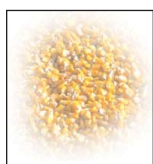


## The Market and Trade Economics Division (MTED)

**Mission:** to conduct economic research and analysis on domestic and foreign economic and policy factors affecting the structure and performance of agricultural markets and trade. The research and analysis program includes monitoring economic indicators of agricultural market performance; providing mid-to-long-term forecasts of domestic and world agricultural market conditions; and assessing the technological, economic, policy, and institutional forces influencing the performance of U. S. and world agricultural markets.

### Research Focus:



**Biotechnology and Agricultural Markets** — U. S. plantings of genetically enhanced crops have increased exponentially since 1995. These crops have the potential to change production incentives, industry structure, and marketing systems. Additional studies will examine the distribution of benefits accruing to developers and users of genetically enhanced crops, and examine the implications of new genetically altered seeds on comparative advantage.



**Unfinished Business and New Issues for Agriculture in the WTO** — The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (URAA) brought agriculture under the rules governing international trade, but left significant "unfinished business" in the three main disciplines: market access, domestic support, and export subsidies. MTED will focus on developing economic frameworks to analyze this unfinished business and new issues arising out of URAA implementation.



**Market Implications of Regional Trade Agreements** — Regional trade agreements have become a fixture in the global trade arena. MTED will assess the economic significance of a more unified agricultural sector for the three NAFTA economies. It will address agricultural adjustment in the transition economies of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and their integration with world and regional markets. Research is focused on current and proposed preferential trade arrangements of the European Union (EU), such as the agreements with CEE countries and the recent EU-Mexico accord, with special attention paid to the estimation of potential impacts on U. S. producers and consumers.



**Performance of Agricultural Commodity Markets** — ERS' ongoing research program focuses on market structure, farm policy, and international market considerations and how they affect fundamental market relationships. Understanding these new relationships provides an analytic base for short-term market analysis and long-term outlook projections activities. In 2001, a program of study was initiated to improve our analytic understanding of the dynamics and changing structure of global food demand and its implications for U.S. agricultural producers and exporters. In anticipation of new farm bill discussions, a new research/analytic effort will focus on alternative farm policy proposals and implications for performance of the agriculture sector.



**Structural Change in U. S. and Global Agriculture** — The pace of industrialization and concentration in agriculture and their implications for producers remain of vital concern. As part of a broader agency-wide effort, MTED will investigate how changes in U. S. and global market structures, particularly the use of contracting, will affect consumers and producers. Research will examine changes in concentration and market power in the grain processing industries, investigate structural and institutional changes in the U. S. dairy industry, analyze the structural change in the global markets for meat, and examine the market structure and trade implications of increased use of E-commerce in U.S. and global food and fiber markets.

## Key Management Contacts:

Director	Neilson C. Conklin	202-694-5201
Deputy Director — Research and Program Management	Mary Bohman	202-694-5150
Deputy Director — Market Analysis and Outlook	Joy Harwood	202-694-5202
Deputy Director — International Programs and Policy Analysis	Cheryl Christensen	202-694-5203
Branch Chief — Agriculture & Trade Outlook	Greg Pompelli	202-694-5330
Branch Chief — Field Crops	Demcey Johnson	202-694-5300
Branch Chief — Specialty Crops	Daniel Pick	202-694-5260
Branch Chief — Animal Products	Janet Perry	202-694-5180
Branch Chief — Europe/Africa/Middle East	John Dunmore	202-694-5204
Branch Chief — Asia/Western Hemisphere	Praveen Dixit	202-694-5220

## Recent MTED Publications:

*Agricultural Policy Reform in the WTO, The Road Ahead*  
*U.S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Marketing, Emerging Trade Practices, Trends, and Issues*  
*Profiles of Tariffs in Global Agricultural Markets*  
*Milk Pricing the United States*  
*Changing Structure of Global Food Consumption and Trade*  
*Analysis of U.S. Commodity Loan Programs With Marketing Loan Provisions*  
*Issues in Food Security*  
*Economics of Tariff-Rate Quota Administration*

All of our work is readily available on the ERS website: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov).